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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 842
By Head

A RESOLUTION to honor the administration, faculty and staff of Austin Peay State University on the University's 75th anniversary.

WHEREAS, in 1927, by act of the General Assembly, Austin Peay Normal School was founded as a two-year junior college and teacher-training institution, named in honor of Governor Austin Peay; and

WHEREAS, the new institution, located on an urban campus in Clarksville, occupied a site used for educational purposes for many years, including Rural Academy from 1806 -1810, Mt. Pleasant Academy from 1811 - 1824, Clarksville Academy from 1825 -1848, Masonic College from 1849 -1850, Montgomery County Masonic College from 1851 -1854, Stewart College from 1855 -1874, and Southwestern Presbyterian University from 1875 -1926; and

WHEREAS, from that humble beginning, the State Board of Education authorized the school to develop a curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1939, and the first was awarded in 1942; in 1943, the General Assembly, by act, changed the name of the institution to Austin Peay State College; and

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WHEREAS, in 1951, the State Board of Education authorized the College to confer a Bachelor of Arts Degree and, the following year, to offer study leading to a degree of Master of Arts in Education; university status was conferred by the State Board in 1966, effective September 1, 1967, and the following year associate degrees were approved; and

WHEREAS, the University reached a new milestone in 1972, when the State Board of Education relinquished governance of higher education to the Tennessee State Board of Regents; the new governing body authorized the Bachelor of Fine Arts and Educational Specialist Degrees in 1974, the Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degrees in 1979, and the Master of Music and the Master Arts in Education Degrees in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Austin Peay State University (APSU) is a respected comprehensive Liberal Arts university with a low faculty/student ratio; its full-time and part-time staff of 733 includes nearly 300 full-time faculty members, 91 percent of whom hold a doctorate or other appropriate terminal degree in their fields serving approximately 7000 students, of whom approximately 5700 are full-time enrollees; and

WHEREAS, APSU boasts many enrichment programs and activities, including the President's Emerging Leaders Program, the Honors Program, the Heritage Program, Women's Studies, International Education, African American Studies, and activities sponsored by the African American Cultural Center, the Multi-Ethnic Services office and the International Education office; and

WHEREAS, the University is proud of its two accomplished Centers of Excellence, one in Field Biology and the other in creative arts, as well as the Roy Acuff Chair in the Creative Arts, the Foundation Chair in Free Enterprise, the Harper/Bourne Chair in Business and the Leonora C. Reuther Chair in Nursing; and

WHEREAS, APSU seeks to extend its reach through the offering of online courses to satisfy the liberal arts core and degree requirements for a Bachelor's in Professional Studies and a Master's in Corporate Communication, and offers several outreach programs; and

WHEREAS, accredited by the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, APSU offers more than 50 majors in associate, bachelor's, master's and education specialist degrees; the main campus is composed of 65 buildings, 24 of which are auxiliary structures for housing and food services; and

WHEREAS, the University is proud of its 180,000 square foot Sundquist Science Complex, housing the biology, chemistry, physics and agriculture departments, as well as the Center for Field Biology, a museum of zoology, a herbarium and the Robert F. Sears Memorial Planetarium; the University library contains 323,000 print volumes, 6,700 audio-visuals, 578,000 microforms, subscribes to 1,800 periodicals, and has a high-tech online cataloging system with onsite and remote access to numerous Internet resources and databases; and

WHEREAS, APSU is a member of the Ohio Valley Conference and is a traditional powerhouse in men's and women's basketball and baseball, fielding 16 competitive sports and many intramural sports; the student body now enjoys the new Joe Morgan University Center, providing a cyber café, meeting rooms, a food court, coffee shop, ballroom, student organization offices and lounges; and

WHEREAS, for 75 years this dynamic institution of higher education has followed a path of steady advances in the quality of its programs, excellence of its faculty, staff and facilities, and commitment to the provision of the best educational opportunities to its student body; this outstanding record is clearly worthy of our praise and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we pause in our deliberations to offer our heartiest congratulations to the administration, faculty and staff of Austin Peay State University on the occasion of the

University's 75th anniversary and express our profound appreciation for their commitment to excellence in education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.